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Rep Wilson

21 July 1976

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT

CIA Contacts with Dr. Peter Toma,

LATSEC, Inc.

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1. Officials and staff members of had been in conthrough his participation in the Georgetown machine translation project. In recent years has dealt with Dr. Toma in his role as President and owner of LATSEC, Inc., La Jolla, California, a firm which deals in the manipulation for numerous purposes of foreign languages.

- 2. Dr. Toma has been indefatigable in representing a system for the machine translation of foreign languages called SYSTRAN to U.S. Government officials. It is clear that he feels he is not accorded a fair hearing by government officials, despite the fact that such hearings have been legion. In March of this year in order to assure awareness of the latest developments in machine assists to translation, sponsored a two-day seminar at which Dr. Toma was one of three representatives of commercial interests who made presentations. At the seminar Dr. Toma offered to demonstrate improvements in his system, using CIA computers. That demonstration took place on 19-20 July. A full re-evaluation of SYSTRAN now is underway. Heretofore, government officials and technicians have been consistent in judging SYSTRAN as suitable only for certain scanning operations, but not satisfactory for the quality literary product that currently provides using human translators.
- 3. The Foreign Technical Division (FTD) of the Air Force installed SYSTRAN several years ago and assesses its operation as suitable for their limited purpose. That product and system were observed by most recently in February 1976 and, for needs, were judged neither suitable nor cost-effective. In assessing

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machine translation systems, remains in close touch with Air Force, Navy, Army, NSA, NSF, LC and others concerned with translation responsibilities.

4. During Dr. Toma's current visit to Washington, he presented two proposals to CIA officials dealing with "content analysis" -- the development of automated systems to analyze Soviet periodic publications and to establish a data base and retrieval system for the purpose of accessing varied types of information pertinent to understanding Soviet goals, tactics and strategy. These are being submitted to study to determine the state of their art and to compare them with existing methods designed to achieve the purpose stated.

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